

**THE SPEECH  
OF  
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR,  
SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, K.C.M.G., M.B.E.  
TO  
THE LEGISLATIVE COUCIL  
ON  
OCTOBER 17th 1973.  
(extract on Housing)**

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## **Housing**

First of all housing. Of all these social programmes it is the biggest. Everything that I have seen in the city and read at my desk during this second year in Hong Kong confirms my conclusion that the inadequacy and scarcity of housing, and all that this implies, and the harsh situations that result from it, is one of the major and most constant sources of friction and unhappiness between Government and the population. It also has implications for our twin problems of crime and corruption. It is therefore vital that we press on with our target of self-contained homes for all in a reasonable environment, by the fiscal year 1982/83.

The new Housing Authority and Housing Department are addressing themselves to this gigantic task with enthusiasm and imagination. They have inherited a lean period, but they aim to work up to a plateau of production in 1976/77 of new homes for 200,000 a year and thereafter to maintain it. They must do this without making excessive demands on the labour market. Later in the debate the Secretary of Housing will be speaking about this and other problems facing the new Authority. These include, depressingly, the need for resite areas to tide over the lean years the Authority has inherited.

The Authority indeed faces many important problems of day to day administration. But we must never forget that nearly all are symptoms of the dominant disease – scarcity of housing. The only sure cure is therefore to end the scarcity. So the primary task of the New Authority and Housing Department must be to build fast, to build well and above all to keep on building.